

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** July 25, 2002

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on July 19, 2002

**FROM:** William E. Muno, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Thomas V. Skinner  
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur  
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and training/conferences:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Emergency Response, Air Safety Engineering, Downers Grove, Illinois**

On July 17, 2002, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Walter F. Nied responded to an anonymous phone call reporting a release from a drum storage area into a drainage ditch located on the south border of the Air Safety Engineering property located in Downers Grove, Illinois. OSC Walter Nied conducted an inspection of the drum area and found approximately one hundred 55-gallon drums staged on pallets. However, no release was observed from the drum storage area into the drainage ditch and the drums appeared to be in good condition. No further action was required.

Contact: Walter Nied (312-886-4466)

**Emergency Response, Kaiser Property, Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

On July 12, 2002, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) requested assistance from the U.S. EPA to conduct an emergency response action at the Kaiser Property, located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Oil was observed coming from a building drain pipe during an excavation project. On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Walter F. Nied and the Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contractor conducted an investigation of the building including a flooded sub-basement. The sub-basement contained three inches of water, but no oily materials or oil source was found. After the sub-basement inspection, six drums

were found and sampled for hazardous material. Kaiser Property has agreed to perform a survey of a two-foot drain pipe to try to locate the source of oil material. Pending the results of the drum samples, no further action is required.

Contact: Walter Nied (312-886-4466)

## **OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS**

### **Meeting/Oil Pollution Fund Activated, Oil Spill, Oregon, Ohio**

On July 12, 2002, Ross Powers attended a last minute meeting with U.S. Coast Guard-Toledo, Ohio, to provide U.S. EPA input. U.S. Coast Guard requested U.S. EPA advice in dealing with an oil seepage problem in Oregon, Ohio. Oil has been entering a storm sewer between several large refinery/pipeline/waste oil companies in the area. The companies do not want to look on their property for the source of the oil. The Oil Pollution fund has been activated since the meeting and the Coast Guard On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) will be contacting U.S. EPA and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) about specific tasks he will want the Regional Response Team (RRT) to perform.

Contacts: Ross Powers (734-692-7681)  
Partap Lall (734-692-7685)

### **Outfall Study and Innovative Fields Techniques, Indiana Harbor Canal, East Chicago, Indiana**

Nina L. Yeskis and Jeff Myers of the Fully Integrated Environmental Location Decision Support (FIELDS) team field tested equipment to facilitate the on-going investigation into oil migration on the surface of the Indiana Harbor Canal (IHC) in East Chicago, Indiana, an investigation being conducted by On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) Betty Lavis and Charles Brasher, and Inspector Ann Whelan. The equipment tested was a hand held Palm Pilot with built-in global positioning system (GPS) intended to be used during bi-weekly boat inspections of the IHC. Using the recently developed Palm Pilot program, inspectors can now enter specific data (such as weather conditions, temperature, GPS coordinates, and show the size and shape of the release, color, source if identified, etc.) which will document and describe new oil releases as well as areas of persistent oil accumulation.

The team also provided Alex da Silva of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) with a boat tour of the IHC and an update of the Study. Phase 1 of the IHC Outfall Study identified all outfalls on the 5 mile IHC (some 236). Each outfall was photographed, located by GPS, and characterized (volume of discharge, odor, color, etc). The outfalls varied from large pipes and culverts to small openings and loose hoses.

Phase 2 of the outfall study focuses on matching outfalls with current National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. Preliminary data indicates over half of the outfalls do not have permits. Once the team has determined the source of outfalls without permits, U.S. EPA and IDEM will pursue voluntary compliance and enforcement options.

Contacts: Nina Yeskis (312-886-0931)  
 Betty Lavis (312-886-7183)  
 Charles Brasher (312-886-9176)

### **Superfund Division Office Inspection, Chicago, Illinois**

On July 19 & 22, 2002, the Regional Health and Safety Team performed an Office Inspection for the Superfund Division Offices in the Metcalfe building, Chicago, Illinois. The Office inspection is designed to reduce the overall level of risk and increase the overall level of Health and Safety Program coverage for employees of the Superfund Division. Typical deficiencies noted from this inspection included:

- " Housekeeping problems; excess amounts of paper and combustibles stored in the offices, material stored on top of electrical cords, material fallen behind printers and copiers.
- " Storage violations; material stored on top of cubicles, material stored on top of refrigerators, excessively heavy stacks of materials on shelf units.
- " Electrical violations; use of cheap, light-duty extension cords in lieu of outlet strips, damaged cords, missing ground prongs, loose or missing face plates on electrical outlets.
- " Emergency egress and fire prevention; blocked aisles, blocked sprinkler heads, blocked fire extinguishers, non-level floors, cords and other trip hazards in aisles.
- " Ergonomic issues; keyboards or monitors moved in attempt to ease work postures.

The Regional Health and Safety (H&S) team will issue a final report regarding Office Inspections. A copy of the final report will be submitted to the Superfund H&S committee.

Contacts: Afif Marouf (312-353-5550)  
 Jacqueline Dillard (312-353-8730)

### **TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

#### **Publication Released (Region 5 Co-Author), Groundwater Sampling Guidelines, Superfund and RCRA Project Managers**

On July 1, 2002, the publication *Groundwater Sampling Guidelines for Superfund and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)*

*Project Managers* (EPA 542-S-02-001) was posted on the web at <http://www.epa.gov/tio/whatsnew.htm>. This Groundwater Forum Issue Paper was recently completed by Douglas Yeskis (Region 5) and Bernie Zavala (Region 10). Significant contributions by a committee of the Groundwater Forum comprised of Dick Willey (Region 1), Ruth Izraeli and Kevin Willis (Region 2), Kathy Davies (Region 3), Robert Puls {Office of Research & Development (ORD) National Risk Management Research Laboratory (NRMRL), Ada, Oklahoma} and Steve Gardner {ORD-National Exposure Research Laboratory (NERL), Las Vegas, Nevada} are recognized, as well as several external reviewers.

The paper summarizes the current state-of-the-science to be used in Superfund and RCRA groundwater studies. Discussions included the advantages and disadvantages of sampling methods, along with considerations groundwater samplers must consider in designing a groundwater sampling program. A main paper with examples of checklists and two standard operating procedures are included.

The paper was funded and published by Rich Steimle of the Technical Innovation Office and is available through their websites, <http://www.clu-in.org/tio/tsp> or <http://www.epa.gov/tio>.

Contacts: Douglas Yeskis (312-886-0408)  
Bernie Zavala (206-553-1562)

### **Meeting, Canada-United States Regional Joint Preparedness Team, Sarnia, Ontario, Canada**

On July 16, 2002, the Canadian Coast Guard hosted a Canada-United States Regional Joint Preparedness Team (JPT) meeting at their offices in Sarnia, Ontario, Canada. The U.S. EPA attendees included Ross Powers and Chris Christenson of the U.S. EPA. Chris Christenson represented Region 5 during discussions of cross boarder agreements, cost recovery, and Joint Plan status. Ross Powers talked about the U. S. EPA Rouge River spill response and investigations. A U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) workgroup will be set up through the National Evaluation Team to tabulate the lessons learned. One of the suggestions was for the agencies to agree upon a standard method of estimating the volume of oil released during a spill. It was proposed that the Rouge spill be counted as a Joint Canada-United States Marine Pollution Contingency Plan for the Great Lakes (CANUSLAK) 2002 exercise, as it activated all of the elements of a planned exercise. The remaining one-day tabletop exercise will cover the objectives of vessel casualty and salvage. Groupe Desgagnes, Inc., and USCG will propose a new date for the tabletop.

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